

of the valid samples (S_i^+),

- deriving a filtered sample from a set of filter input values which is fixed in size; each filter input value being associated with a specific sample such that, if the sample is valid, the value of the sample is taken as the filter input value whereas, if the sample is not valid, a padding value is taken as the filter input value, the padding value being derived from at least one valid sample.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of filtering ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein the method ~~comprises the steps of:~~ a collection (COL) of samples (S_i), wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- distinguishing (DIS) between valid samples (S_i^+) and non-valid samples (S_i^-) on the basis of auxiliary data (AUX); and
- deriving (DER) filtered samples (S_o), which are associated with the valid samples (S_i^+), exclusively on the basis of the valid samples (S_i^+),
- forming a cluster of samples;
- calculating a padding value on the basis of valid samples in the cluster;
- forming a set of filter values by taking, for each valid sample, the value of that sample and by taking the padding value for each non-valid sample;
- deriving a filtered sample from the cluster of filter input values.

4. (Previously Amended) A filter arrangement (FAR) for filtering a collection of input samples (S_i), wherein the filter arrangement comprises:

- an input circuit for distinguishing between valid input samples (S_i^+) and non-valid input samples (S_i^-) on the basis of

auxiliary data (AUX); and

- a filtering circuit for deriving filtered samples (S_o), which are associated with the valid input samples (S_{i+}), exclusively on the basis of the valid samples (S_{i+}).

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for a filter arrangement, the computer program product comprises a set of instructions which, when loaded into the filter arrangement, causes the filter arrangement to carry out the ~~method as claimed in claim 1~~ following steps:

- distinguishing (DIS) between valid input samples (S_{i+}) and non-valid input samples (S_{i-}) on the basis of auxiliary data (AUX); and

- deriving (DER) filtered samples (S_o), which are associated with the valid input samples (S_{i+}), exclusively on the basis of the valid samples (S_{i+}).